

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01176 01 OF 02 180340Z
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
USDA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 1176

JOINT EMBASSY/FAS MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR, EAID, BR
SUBJECT: VUS-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE - CALMON DE
SA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: (A) STATE 36544, (B) BRASILIA 1077, (C) 77 STATE
283677 (D) 76 STATE 287860, (E) BRASILIA 10507

1. SUMMARY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES,
AS APPROVED BY WASHINGTON INTER-AGENCY GROUP, MISSION
RECOMMENDS NEW US EFFORT TO PROBE BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY,
IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT,

A. TO ESTABLISH USDA-MINAGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
UNDER MEMEORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, AND

B. BEGIN WORK ON IDENTIFYING AREAS AND PROJECTS IN
WHICH THE TWO MINISTRIES CAN COOPERATE FOR MUTUAL
BENEFIT.

CALMON DE SA'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH SECRETARY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01176 01 OF 02 180340Z

BERGLAND WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY, IN MISSION'S VIEW,
TO LAUNCH THIS NEW PROBE. MISSION WILL PROMPTLY
FOLLOW UP AFTER CALMON DE SA'S RETURN. AGATTACHE
HAS DEVELOPED A TENTATIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. WASHINGTON WILL RECOGNIZE,
HOWEVER, THE LIMITATIONS TO SUCH COOPERATION,
INHERENT IN OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AS COMPETITORS

IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS (AS WELL AS BRAZILIAN SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM), AND THE FACT THAT THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION, FOR POLITICAL REASON, MAY BE INHIBITING OR BLOCKING SUCH COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR BRAZIL, AS APPROVED BY WASHINGTON INTER-AGENCY GROUP, ENVISAGE CLOSER CONSULTATIVE AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. AS WE SEE IT, OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE, THROUGH CLOSER TIES BETWEEN USDA AND THE BRAZILIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (A) TO FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY IN AREAS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT; AND (B) TO MINIMIZE FUTURE TRADE PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. MISSION BELIEVES THAT CALMON DE SA'S FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH SECRETARY BERGLAND, OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY, AND THAT THE SECRETARY SHOULD OUTLINE IN BROAD TERMS WHAT US WOULD BE INTERESTED IN, AND PREPARED TO DO, IN THIS AREA. (CALMON DE SA, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE, WOULD REPORT SECRETARY BERGLAND'S VIEWS BACK TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE PAULINELLI.) MISSION THEN WULD FOLLOW UP. IF THERE IS SUFFICIENT BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY, CLOSER COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE COULD BE A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
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PAGE 03 BRASIL 01176 01 OF 02 180340Z

4. DEPARTMENT HAS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED THE CONCEPT OF CLOSER COOPERATION AND CONSULTATIONS (REFS C AND D). AS THE HISTORY OF THESE PREVIOUS EFFORTS SHOWS, THE GOB, FOR REASON ONLY PARTIALLY KNOWN, TO US, HAS NOT RESPONDED TO DATE TO US SUGGESTIONS AND APPROACHES. (FOR EXAMPLE, DESPITE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL PAULO ROMANO'S INTEREST IN A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (REF E), THE MINISTRY HAS NOT SO FAR PREPARED A LIST OF AREAS OF INTEREST, TO HELP DEFINE THE SCOPE AND FOCUS OF SUCH A PROGRAM, NOR HAS IT TAKEN UP THE SUGGESTION THAT A BRAZILIAN TEAM VISIT THE US TO ACQUAINT ITSELF WITH US RESOURCES AND FACILITIES.) AGATTACHE CONTINUES TO FIND STRONG INTEREST IN A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITHIN THE MINISTRY. THE EMBASSY THUS BELIEVES THAT, QUITE ASIDE FROM THE SUBSIDIARY FINANCING QUESTION, POLITICAL FACTORS STEMMING FROM BASIC ATTITUDES WITHIN THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION TOWARD COOPERATION WITH THE US MAY HAVE INHIBITED OR BLOCKED A RESPONSE. (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, SEPTTEL ON GEISEL'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN.)

5. TO TEST BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY, MISSION BELIEVES
USG SHOULD MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS (INITIALLY TO
CALMON DE SA) IN ADVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT.
BOTH SIDES SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME RECOGNIZE AND
UNDERSTAND THE LIMITS, AS WELL AS THE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR US-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION, GIVEN THE COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN CERTAIN EXPORT
PRODUCTS AS WELL AS BRAZILIAN SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.
EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, TO IDENTIFY ACTIVITIES OF MUTUAL
INTEREST AND OVERSEA COOPERATION IN THIS AREA, THE
US PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A USDA-BRAZIL MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING.

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01176 02 OF 02 171255Z POSS DUPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 1176

JOINT EMBASSY FAS MESSAGE

6. AGATT HAS DEVELOPED AN OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE
AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN USDA AND THE MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH THE EMBASSY BELIEVES WOULD
BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. THE WORKING GROUP TO BE
ESTABLISHED WOULD BE PATTERNED ALONG THE LINES
OF SIMILAR GROUPS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN BRAZIL
AND CANADA AND BRAZIL AND THE NETHERLANDS IN
RECENT MONTHS. THE AGREEMENTS PROVIDE FOR CLOSE
COOPERATION BETWEEN BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS
AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS
IN SPECIFIC AREAS. ALL COSTS WILL BE SHARED, WITH
EACH COUNTRY PAYING THE WAY OF ITS OFFICIALS WHEN THEY
TRAVEL ABROAD. AGATT LIST (WHICH HAS BEEN POUCHED TO USDA'S
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF, WITH COPIES TO STATE AND AID)

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

A. SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS.

B. ENERGY CONSERVATION IN AGRICULTURE (NOTE
LINKAGE TO WORK OF SUB-GROUP ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY).

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01176 02 OF 02 171255Z POSS DUPE

C. IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICAL RE-
PORTING SYSTEM.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF BRAZIL'S DAIRY INDUSTRY.

E. ANIMAL HEALTH COOPERATION.

F. LONG-TERM WORLD SUPPLY -- DEMAND STUDY FOR
SOYBEANS. (THIS IS AN AREA OF GREAT SENSITIVITY,
WHICH SHOULD BE MENTIONED IN A LOW KEY FASHION,
IF AT ALL, AT THIS POINT, IN VIEW OF PAST CACEX
OPPOSITION TO A SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP.)

G. PRESERVATION OF FOODS, WITH EMPHASIS ON TROPICAL
FRUITS.

H. USAGE OF SOY PRODUCTS AS MEAT AND MILK EXTENDERS,
EVERAGES, ETC.

I. OTHERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

AGATT HAS INCLUDED A BRIEF JUSTIFICATION FOR ABOVE
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IN HIS LETTER TO IDS, USDA. HE
ALSO HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF THE BRAZIL MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN HIS LETTER.

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